



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA PRE-K MONTH

- WHEREAS: Georgia's Pre-K Program serves as a model for many other states endeavoring to improve their own educational systems; and
- WHEREAS: Since its inception in 1992, Georgia's Pre-K Program has served more than 1.6 million four-year-olds in constructive, curriculum-based classroom settings. Today, roughly 60 percent of all four-year-olds in Georgia are served by Pre-K and Head Start programs, which have a combined statewide enrollment of nearly 81,000 children; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Children's Cabinet and Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning have been instrumental in meeting the needs of our youngest learners by expanding our Pre-K resources and growing Pre-K program enrollment; and
- WHEREAS: We can better prepare our youngest learners for both academic and career success by focusing careful time, attention, and resources on children under the age of five and teaching each child the critical skills necessary to reach his or her full potential; and
- WHEREAS: Research has shown that Georgia's nationally ranked Pre-K program has significantly improved and enhanced the literacy skills of Georgia students. Georgia Pre-K Month and Week provide us with an opportunity to visit Pre-K classrooms across the state to read to the young students served by this program as we seek to better understand the significant value of effective early childhood education; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia's Pre-K and early childcare educators are truly extraordinary. These educators instill a joy of learning within their students that carries on throughout the students' academic careers, preparing children to enter kindergarten and adapt to the classroom setting in the years ahead. Their skills, dedication, and perseverance are deserving of recognition, praise, and celebration; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as GEORGIA PRE-K MONTH and October 2-6, 2017, as GEORGIA PRE-K WEEK, and hereby encourage Georgia citizens to recognize the benefits that our Pre-K programs provide to communities across our state by visiting local early childhood education classrooms.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF